

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECE, UN, XG

SUBJECT: ECE - SENIOR ADVISERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBELMS

REF: STATE 013380

1. BISHOP, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT DIVISION, ADMITS THAT DOCUMENT ENV/R.26 ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF WATER RESOURCES LACKS PRECISION AND FOCUS. HE ATTRIBUTES THIS PARTIALLY TO STAFFING PROBLEMS (DEPARTURE OF VETERAN WATER EXPERT PICHLER-STEINER) AND TO FACT THAT COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ECE PROGRAMS IN THIS AREA. HE HAS OFFERED TO PREPARE ONE OR TWO PAGE PAPER WHICH COULD GIVE DIRECTION TO DISCUSSION BUT THIS UNLIKELY TO APPEAR MUCH BEFORE SESSION.

2. BISHOP STRESSED THAT SENIOR ADVISERS WOULD NOT HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF WATER RESOURCES SINCE THIS IS WITHIN PURVIEW OF COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS. SENIOR ADVISERS CAN ONLY UNDERTAKE LIMITED NUMBER OF PROJECTS ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY AND MUST RELY WHEREVER POSSIBLE ON RESOURCES OF OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDAIRY BODIES. THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE,
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FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CHEMICAL AND COAL INDUSTRIES AND

HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISERS HAVE PLAYED SUPPORTING RATHER THAN PRIMARY ROLE IN PROJECTS WHICH HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT.

3. DR.VOLKER, CHAIRMAN OF WATER PROBLEMS COMMITTEE, WILL BE PRESENT AT SENIOR ADVISERS MEETING AND WILL INFORM THEM OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. THIS WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND FOR CONSIDERATION BY SENIOR ADVISERS.

4. GARY COBB OF WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL AND U.S. DELEGATE TO WATER PROBLEMS COMMITTEE CONFERRED WITH MISSION RECENTLY AND HAS FULL BACKGROUND ON THIS MATTER. HE SHOULD BE CONSULTED REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR SENIOR ADVISERS MEETING. HE REPORTS THAT BISHOP DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT AT RECENT PREPARATORY MEETING FOR WATER SEMINAR TO ANALYSIS OF RESPECTIVE ROLES OF SENIOR ADVISERS AND COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS.

5. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, BISHOP HOPES THAT SENIOR ADVISERS WILL AVOID LENGTHY FORMAL STATEMENTS ON MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEMS BUT WILL DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TO KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP. HE WANTS MEMBERS TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE.DALE

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